

# Spark Gap

Volume 23, Issue 10, October 2006



*MARC Annual Picnic includes lots of food, fun, and elections of new officers. Photo by Jack Parker, W8ISH.*

*The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur  
Radio Club  
P. O. Box 836  
Franklin, IN 46131  
[www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org)

Members of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club met on a beautiful Saturday in September for our annual Picnic and Election of Officers.

A short business meeting followed the picnic which was enjoyed by all. A special thanks to our 'Grill Chef' Brenda Haler, KC9EBL. Brenda also secured the location, Union Christian Church, Franklin, IN. A good number of members were on hand as Meredith "JR" Osborne, KB9HSE, was voted in as our President.

Also elected was Dave Daily, KB9LOT, as Vice President, Carol Osborne, KC9CFK, Secretary, Brenda Haler, KC9EBL, Treasurer, and Jay Chrisman, AA9YP, Trustee.

Appointed as Webmaster was Matt Payne, KB9UJE, and as Public Information Officer (PIO), KC9GCH, Linda Harshbarger. Continuing in key roles within the organization are Jack Parker, W8ISH as Activities Director, Bob LaGrange, N9SIU as both the Newsletter Editor and ARES Coordinator, Jay Chrisman, AA9YP as RACES Coordinator, Dave Wendt, KA9OOH, VE Coordinator, Joe Rogers, KF9LQ, Supper Group Coordinator,

## New Officers!

and Paul Hise, AA9GY, Historian. Serving currently as Net Control for our Sunday night net check-in and test is Steve Carmean, K9DY.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on Saturday, October 21st, at 8:00 AM in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN 46131. Please plan on joining us as we welcome in these new officers and give thanks to those who continue to serve the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club through

various volunteer activities. The new PIO will be bringing donuts so bring your coffee and/or soda to the meeting.

## Officers Elected!

### MARC Public Safety Event Greenwood High School Marching Band Invitational

The Johnson County ARES group (MARC members included) provided public safety services at the Annual Invitational on September 23rd. Two amateurs were on shuttle buses which ran from the Middle School and K-Mart parking lots to the High School. The remaining amateur radio volunteers put on rain gear and braved the elements. Parking and tracking of bands, parents, and visitors was a particular challenge due to the rain and sometimes stormy conditions.

Thanks to the following who volunteered their time: N9SIU, K9DY, KB9LOT, WB9AYB, N9QVO, KC9EBL, AA9GY, KC9JJY, N9FEB, W8ISH, WD9GGM and W9DEW.

# Measure Makes Amateur Radio Part of Emergency Communications Community

NEWINGTON, CT, Oct 4, 2006 — A section of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) 2007 Appropriations Act, HR 5441, formally includes Amateur Radio



operators as a part of the emergency communications community. Congress approved the measure before adjourning for its pre-election break. President George W. Bush signed the bill into law today.

Amateur Radio is included within the legislation's Subtitle D, Section 671, known as the **"21st Century Emergency Communications Act."** Radio amateurs are among the entities with which a

Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECC Working Group) must coordinate its activities.

Included within the DHS's Office of Emergency Communications — which the measure also creates — RECC Working Groups attached to each regional DHS office will advise federal and state homeland security officials. House Subcommittee on Homeland Security Chairman Rep Harold Rogers (R-KY) sponsored HR 5441. The final version of the legislation incorporates language from both House and Senate bills and was hammered out in a conference committee.

In addition to Amateur Radio operators, RECC Working Groups also will coordinate with communications equipment manufacturers and vendors — including broadband data service providers, local exchange carriers, local broadcast media, wireless carriers, satellite communications services, cable operators, hospitals, public utility services, emergency evacuation transit services,

ambulance services, and representatives from other private sector entities and nongovernmental organizations.

According to the bill, the RECC Working Groups will assess the survivability, sustainability and interoperability of local emergency communication systems to meet the goals of the National Emergency Communications Report. That report would recommend how the US could "accelerate the deployment of interoperable emergency communications nationwide."

RECC Working Groups also will be tasked with ensuring a process to coordinate the establishment of "effective multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency emergency communications networks" that could be brought into play following acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other emergencies.

At the state and local level, RECC Working Groups will include state officials; local government officials; law enforcement; local fire departments; 911 centers; state emergency managers, homeland security directors or representatives of state administrative agencies; local emergency

managers or homeland security directors, and other emergency response providers.

At the federal level, RECC Working Group members will include representatives of the DHS, the FCC and other federal departments and agencies responsible for coordinating interoperable emergency communication with or providing emergency support services to state, local and tribal governments.

In the wake of the bill's passage, the ARRL plans to follow up to determine how it can interact with the DHS and its Office of Emergency Communications.

## Officers

**President:**  
Meredith 'JR'  
Osborne, KB9HSE

**Vice President:**  
Dave Daily,  
KB9LOT

**Secretary:**  
Carol Osborne,  
KC9CFK

**Treasurer:**  
Brenda Haler,  
KC9EBL

**Repeater Trustee:**  
Jay Chrisman,  
AA9YP

**Spark Gap Editor:**  
Bob LaGrange,  
N9SIU

## DHS Includes Amateur Radio!

# Picnic/Meeting Photos



**WA9RDF**  
**Repeater**  
**146.835/  
146.235 MHz**  
**151.4 Hz PL**  
**Tone**

**Weekly Net**  
**Every Sunday**  
**at 7PM EST**

***Tune in to hear  
the ARRL  
Newsline!***

# Band Contest Photos



All photos by Jack Parker, W8ISH

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## Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills. Newline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby. For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to [netcontrol@midstatehams.org](mailto:netcontrol@midstatehams.org) and we will record your check-in!



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317.887.2558

*Spark Gap*

# 2006 Schedule of Events

## Public Service Events and/or Educational/Testing Opportunities

### OCTOBER 2006

#### 21 **MARC Meeting, 8:00 AM**

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

#### 25 **Johnson County Wellness Fair, 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

MARC display at the Wellness Fair - Volunteers needed - Contact KC9GCH

Scott Hall, Johnson County Fairgrounds, Franklin, IN

#### 31 **Tentative - Goblin Patrol**

Consult club website for more information

### NOVEMBER 2006

#### 14 **Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting, 7:00 PM**

Red Cross Chapter, Indianapolis, IN

#### 18 **MARC Meeting**

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

#### 18-19 **Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo**

Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and Exposition Center, Fort Wayne, IN

### DECEMBER 2006

#### 12 **Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting, 7:00 PM**

Election of Officers scheduled

Red Cross Chapter, Indianapolis, IN

#### 16 **MARC Meeting**

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

#### 25 **Evansville Hamfest**

Vanderburgh County 4-H Fairgrounds Auditorium, Evansville, IN

**Please note:** If you have any information on 2007 scheduled events, please forward to the PIO, Linda Harshbarger, KC9GCH, at [PIO@midstatehams.org](mailto:PIO@midstatehams.org) or [KC9GCH@arrl.net](mailto:KC9GCH@arrl.net). I am in the process of putting together a 2007 calendar of events and appreciate your assistance.

### Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.